

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Patentable subject matter was found in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 17 and 18. If necessary, these claims may be placed in independent form in a future amendment.

New claims 25 and 26, which depend indirectly from claim 13, are related to allowable claims 17 and 18 and are therefore allowable as well.

New claims 21, 22, 23 and 27 depend from claims 4, 9, 17 and 25 and recite a relationship between the switching frequency of the controller IC, the value of the timing resistor, and the value of the timing capacitor. These claims are related to but broader than claims 5, 10 and 18. The feature of claims 21, 22, 23 and 27 is not suggested by the art of record.

Claim 1-3, 6-8, 11-16, 19 and 20 were rejected as being anticipated by Abdoulin, U.S. Patent No. 6,239,994. New claim 24 depends from claim 13 and corresponds to claim 16. Reconsideration of these claims is requested.

A feature of the invention recited in each independent claim is a plurality of tightly regulated point-of-load converters operable to convert the intermediate bus voltage into respective point-of-load voltages to power a respective number of loads; wherein the plurality of tightly-regulated converters converts an intermediate bus voltage produced by an unregulated isolated open-loop-controlled power module.

Abdoulin does not show the recited arrangement, including the initial conversion of an input voltage into an intermediate bus voltage to enable the subsequent conversion into a plurality of POL (point-of-load) voltages. Nor does it show the claimed combination of an unregulated module and a plurality of tightly-regulated converters.

Abdoulin shows merely a regulated converter which provides two output voltages from an isolation transformer. Regulation circuits 106, 112 perform regulation directly from the transformer. It does not show an unregulated power module, and it does not show a plurality of tightly regulated point-of-load converters.

The Examiner cited the regulation circuits 106, 112 as being "converters." However, Abdoulin's entire invention e.g., Fig. 13 or Fig. 14 is a regulated converter, and the circuits 106, 112 are the regulator circuits for that converter.

The Abdoulin reference further is silent on a problem addressed by this invention, namely the unnecessary increased complexity that results when it is desired to regulate the intermediate bus voltage. The present invention addresses that problem by providing an initial unregulated power module for providing the intermediate bus voltage and providing the regulation downstream.

For at least these reasons, allowance of claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-16, 19, 20 and 24 is requested.

FACSIMILE CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile (571) 273-8300 to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on November 23, 2005:

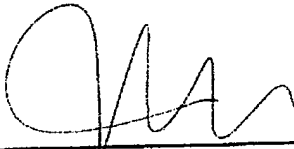
James A. Finder

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

November 23, 2005
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Finder
Registration No.: 30, 173
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

JAF:lf